United Nations TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/28

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.: General
4 February 2015

Original: English

**Trade and Development Board**
**Trade and Development Commission**
**Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development**
**Seventh session**
Geneva, 15–16 April 2015
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
**Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

# Provisional agenda and annotations

## I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets, and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development
4. Policy actions for mitigating the impact of price volatility in commodity markets on global food security and increasing access to market intelligence, financial resources and markets for commodity-dependent developing countries
5. Adoption of the report of the meeting

## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

### Item 1
### Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the expert meeting elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

GE.15-01760 (E)
*1501760*

Please recycle

## Item 2
## Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the seventh session of the multi-year expert meeting is reproduced in chapter I. The expert meeting will have two days, 15 and 16 April 2015, to complete its work. The provisional schedule of meetings for the two days is attached in the annex to this document. A detailed programme will be available at the latest one week before the start of the meeting.

*Documentation*

TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/28 Provisional agenda and annotations

## Item 3
## Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets, and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development

3. The overall topic of the fifth to eighth sessions of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development, to be held each year from 2013 to 2016, was decided at the fifty-sixth executive session of the Trade and Development Board in 2012. The terms of reference of the seventh session were approved at the meeting of the extended Bureau of the Board held on 30 November 2012. The purpose of the multi-year expert meeting is to monitor the developments, opportunities and challenges in commodity markets, giving due attention to those commodity sectors that are relevant to commodity-dependent developing countries.

4. Discussion on these topics, which will include presentations by national experts and experts from relevant international organizations and commodity bodies, as well as representatives of the private sector and civil society, will serve to inform UNCTAD member States on important developments in key commodity sectors and markets from a development perspective.

5. To facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat prepared a note entitled "Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets, and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development". The paper reviews recent developments in key commodity markets, including agriculture, energy, and minerals, ores and metals. It highlights price trends and driving forces of price movements and identifies emerging developments in the global commodity economy that are set to change the commodity landscape and pose new challenges for commodity-dependent developing countries. The note concludes with policy recommendations to address these challenges and ensure inclusive growth and sustainable development in these countries.

*Documentation*

TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/29 Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets, and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development

## Item 4
## Policy actions for mitigating the impact of price volatility in commodity markets on global food security and increasing access to market intelligence, financial resources and markets for commodity-dependent developing countries

6. The terms of reference for the seventh session indicate that the meeting should review and identify policy actions that could be taken to mitigate the negative impact of growing volatility and price swings in commodity markets on global food security and economic welfare, so as to improve market functioning and countries' resilience to shocks. They also request the meeting to suggest measures that could help improve access to market intelligence, financial resources and markets for producers in commodity-dependent developing countries in order to increase their market participation and incomes.

7. To facilitate the discussion under this item, the secretariat issued a note entitled "Policy actions for mitigating the impact of price volatility in commodity markets on global food security and increasing access to market intelligence, financial resources and markets for commodity-dependent developing countries". This paper describes the extent to which commodity price volatility affects food security in these countries and suggests policy actions that could be taken to mitigate this effect. Moreover, it highlights the importance of improving the access of producers in these countries to market intelligence, financial resources and markets with a view to increasing their incomes and welfare, and offers policy recommendations geared towards achieving these objectives.

*Documentation*

TD/B/C.I/MEM.2/30 Policy actions for mitigating the impact of price volatility in commodity markets on global food security and increasing access to market intelligence, financial resources and markets for commodity-dependent developing countries

## Item 5
## Adoption of the report of the meeting

8. The report of the expert meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its next session. The expert meeting may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chair, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

**Input from experts: Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets, and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development**

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (approximately five pages) as contributions to the work of the meeting. The papers should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting and will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. Papers, which should draw on the experts' experience, may address one or more of the following issues:

(a) What have been the drivers of price trends in recent years in commodity markets, and what are the opportunities and challenges faced by commodity-dependent developing countries stemming from these trends?

(b) Under which circumstances can trade in primary commodities make a positive contribution to development?

(c) What mechanisms allow primary commodities to enhance trade and contribute to sustainable development?

For more information, please contact:

Samuel Gayi
Head, Special Unit on Commodities
UNCTAD
Office No. E.9030
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Tel: 41 22 917 2131
Fax: 41 22 917 0509
E-mail: samuel.gayi@unctad.org

# Annex

## Provisional meeting schedule

| *Wednesday*<br>*15 April 2015* | *Thursday*<br>*16 April 2015* |
|---|---|
| *(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)* | *(10 a.m.–1 p.m.)* |
| Plenary<br><br>Opening statement<br><br>Item 1<br>Election of officers<br><br>Item 2<br>Adoption of the agenda and organization of work<br><br>Item 3<br>Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets, and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development<br><br>– Agricultural commodities | Item 4<br>Policy actions for mitigating the impact of price volatility in commodity markets on global food security and increasing access to market intelligence, financial resources and markets for commodity-dependent developing countries |
| *(3 p.m.–6 p.m.)* | *(3 p.m.–5.30 p.m.)* |
| Item 3 (continued)<br>Recent developments and new challenges in commodity markets, and policy options for commodity-based inclusive growth and sustainable development<br><br>– Minerals, ores and metals<br><br>– Energy: oil, gas and coal | Item 4 (continued)<br>Policy actions for mitigating the impact of price volatility in commodity markets on global food security and increasing access to market intelligence, financial resources and markets for commodity-dependent developing countries |
| | *(5.30 p.m.–6 p.m.)* |
| | Item 5<br>Adoption of the report of the meeting |